

assumes a role and more war in which the Islamic State becomes an even greater threat to world peace. With these clear alternatives, the five nations mentioned above could formulate a unanimous proposal. Unfortunately, differences among them persist.

Iran outlined a general four-point sequence several months ago, consisting of a ceasefire, formation of a unity government, constitutional reforms and elections. Working through the United Nations Security Council and utilizing a five-nation proposal, some mechanism could be found to implement these goals.

The involvement of Russia and Iran is essential. Mr. Assad's only concession in four years of war was giving up chemical weapons, and he did so only under pressure from Russia and Iran. Similarly, he will not end the war by accepting concessions imposed by the West, but is likely to do so if urged by his allies.

Mr. Assad's governing authority could then be ended in an orderly process, an acceptable government established in Syria, and a concerted effort could then be made to stamp out the threat of the Islamic State.

The needed concessions are not from the combatants in Syria, but from the proud nations that claim to want peace but refuse to cooperate with one another.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 39 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of wisdom, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Prior to the Great Compromise, Benjamin Franklin addressed the Constitutional Convention: "We indeed seem to feel our own want of political wisdom, since we have been running about in search of it. In this situation of this assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, have we now forgotten (our) powerful friend?"

Lord, You are the powerful friend referred to by Franklin, and we turn again to You to ask that Your wisdom might break through the political discussions of these days.

Bless the Members of the people's House and all of Congress with the insight and foresight to construct a future of security in our Nation's politics, economy, and society. May they, as You, be especially mindful of those who are poor and without power.

May all that is done today be for Your greater honor and glory. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DOLD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DOLD led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, October marks Breast Cancer Awareness Month, a month to especially recognize and celebrate breast cancer patients, survivors, and advocates. While breast cancer affects individuals and families throughout the year, I especially appreciate the awareness and advocacy efforts that occur this week, especially the Walk for Life and Women's Night Out.

The Walk for Life/Race for Life at Palmetto Health, though rescheduled due to tragic flooding, is celebrating 25 years of raising funds and awareness for survivors and treatment in the Midlands. In the past 25 years, the Walk for Life, led by Chair Janet Snider, has gone from 200 participants in the first year to over 11,000 participants last year, raising over \$800,000.

Women's Night Out at Lexington Medical Center, led by President Mike Biediger, is an inspiring evening at Burkett, Burkett & Burkett CPAs where the hospital honors breast cancer patients, survivors, and their families.

I know firsthand of the success at Lexington Medical Center where my son, Addison, in high school, was successfully treated for thyroid cancer and now himself is an orthopedic surgeon.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President by his actions never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, this summer, when a small group of Republicans successfully blocked the renewal of the Export-Import Bank, they were very dismissive of the negative effects their efforts would have on job creation here in our country. Now it is autumn, and without the Ex-Im Bank, we are losing American jobs.

Last month, General Electric announced it will move production of large, gas-powered engines to Canada, along with 350 jobs, because the company cannot access financing from the Export-Import Bank.

Boeing was recently told by a Singapore-based satellite company not even to bother bidding on a satellite contract because they lacked the financing from Ex-Im.

These are just a few real-life examples of the real-world consequences of letting Ex-Im expire. There is never a good time to commit economic suicide.

I urge my colleagues to join together in renewing the Export-Import Bank and saving and growing American jobs.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This disease has touched everyone in some way, and we must do all we can to fight it.

An astonishing one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer over the course of her lifetime. This is one of the many reasons that I supported increased funding for the National Institutes of Health. American scientists and researchers are the best in the world, but they do need our support to put an end to this disease once and for all.

I am also proud to be the lead Republican sponsor of H.R. 1925, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Dr. Ernie Bodai, the creator of the breast cancer research stamp. Since its introduction in 1998, the stamp has been an effective tool for increasing awareness and has raised over \$80 million to support the cause.

This month, please take a moment to join me in remembering those who lost the battle to breast cancer, while celebrating survivors, those currently fighting the disease, and all of those helping women live longer, healthier lives.

SOLAR ENERGY

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, solar energy serves the national interest in a number of ways. It is reducing our reliance on fossil fuels that are causing climate change. It is helping America

to become energy independent. It is creating jobs, 3,000 of them, at or near the solar plant under construction in Buffalo, New York.

Solar panels empower consumers to generate clean and affordable energy at home and to sell the extra energy that they do not use to the grid. A policy called "net metering," which requires utilities to pay a fair price for this energy to the consumer, is currently in place in all but six States. It has been vital to the growth of the solar industry by providing consumers with certainty on the savings that solar will produce in their energy bill.

That is why I have introduced legislation to direct the Department of Energy to conduct a study on all of the impacts of net metering. Through a comprehensive analysis, we can ensure that regulators and policymakers have the accurate information they need to make a sound decision on whether to support consumer-generated solar energy.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT VETOED

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, my heart breaks for our military men and women who last week watched their Commander in Chief as he vetoed the NDAA, the National Defense Authorization Act. This was a bill that would give them more pay and better benefits for the job that they are doing. He vetoed it, great flourish, called a ceremony.

He vetoed the bill because he wanted more money for his domestic agenda that includes more money for broken agencies like the EPA and the IRS. Imagine that.

In Congress, our first responsibility is to provide for the common defense, and the NDAA just does that.

This year's defense bill passed both the House and the Senate with an overwhelming bipartisan majority. It is the most reform-centered defense bill in decades.

It includes pay and benefits for our troops. Did you know 83 percent of our military personnel have retired with no retirement benefits? It changes that.

The President vetoed it. It would have given them 401(k)-style benefits. The President vetoed it. He should be ashamed of those actions. The men and women in uniform deserve better.

NATION'S CRUMBLING INFRASTRUCTURE

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, well, it is long past time for Congress to do its job and get serious about funding a long-term solution to fix our crumbling roads and bridges, all of our infrastructure in this country.

In Michigan, of all States, we know that we need to invest in order to grow our economy. To build a 21st century economy, we need state-of-the-art infrastructure.

No more short-term fixes, no more month-to-month funding. I have voted against these short-term bills in the past, and I am going to continue to do so.

We are in urgent need of dramatic investment in infrastructure. Nearly a third of our roads are in poor or mediocre condition. One out of four of our bridges require significant repair. In my own hometown, our water infrastructure is wholly inadequate to provide even clean water to our residents.

We just cannot continue to threaten our economy by failing to do our job. Congress needs to do its job. The American people go to work every single day, and the least that they can expect is that we do the same thing and do our job.

If we really believe in our future in this Congress, we ought to be willing to invest in it.

FAIRNESS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR MARRIED HOUSEHOLDS WITH STUDENT LOANS ACT

(Mr. MARCHANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, student loan debt is now the fastest growing and second-largest type of household debt in America. It is no surprise that many Americans are putting off marriage and family life for financial reasons.

The decline in marriage is a problem that could impact our economy and society for decades to come. Yet, our Tax Code punishes married households who have student debt. That is why I have introduced the Fairness and Opportunities for Married Households With Student Loans Act.

Currently, an individual with student loans can deduct up to \$2,500 in interest paid on their loans, but that amount does not increase for married couples filing jointly. So spouses who both have student loan debt are limited to just one \$2,500 deduction. This is not fair.

My bill increases the deduction to \$5,000 for married couples. It only makes sense. It also strengthens incentives toward marriage and financial independence.

With student debt putting pressure on our economy, let's stop penalizing marriage and start helping families build a stronger future.

2015 JOBS FAIR AND ECONOMY

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I recently hosted my third annual hiring event where 500 applicants connected with more than 70 employers looking to fill positions.

I was delighted to see Ramona Young and Sommatra Jackson at the event, two women hired at my first event in 2013. They were back this year representing the company that hired them.

Their success continues to motivate me. For every Ramona and Sommatra, there are hundreds of Americans looking for good-paying jobs that allow them to build toward a future.

So today I rise on behalf of those American workers still looking for good-paying jobs.

We all know the statistics. Our economy is growing. After 67 months of consecutive job growth, our unemployment rate stands at 5.1 percent for the first time since 2008, but the fact is there are nearly 8 million Americans still searching.

The people I met at my hiring event were talented, skilled, and driven. They are hungry for an opportunity to work, to put their skills to good use, and to provide for their families.

I urge my colleagues to join me in creating an economy that works for everyone.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

(Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Far too many families fall victim to domestic violence. In fact, one in four women will experience domestic violence at some point in their lives.

I want to recognize and thank the organizations, their staff, and their volunteers across my district for what they do to help victims of domestic violence.

To cite just one example, Mr. Speaker, last week the Berks Women in Crisis held their annual Silent Witness Project march and ceremony to honor and remember victims lost. A group of about 75 people marched from the Berks Women in Crisis center to the Reading Area Community College, carrying 25 red silhouettes of women, men, and children killed due to domestic violence. Each cutout held a brass shield with the summary of that victim's story.

By spreading awareness of these horrors of domestic violence and encouraging victims to speak up, we can and must help reduce the number of women victimized.

I applaud the efforts of this annual ceremony and march and want to let them know that their work is recognized by the community. Indeed, the work of all the organizations, their staff, and volunteers is critical.